



Gahanna PD Community Bulletin: February 2022

Members of the Gahanna Community:

We are hiring! Everywhere you look, you're likely to see that phrase. All sectors of employment have been impacted as a result of the pandemic and economic conditions. Law enforcement has been significantly affected over the last two years. Some officers retired earlier than expected, and some have sought out employment in areas other than policing.

In the 1990s until the late 2000s it was not unusual to have 300-400 applicants during a hiring cycle for one or two positions within the Division of Police. Those numbers have dwindled to less than 80 within our most recent hiring processes for sworn officer positions. The number of applicants for 9-1-1 dispatcher positions is even less. The competition among suburban agencies for the same small applicant pool is a challenge. To successfully compete with other departments we must rely on attracting applicants based on things such as agency culture (guardian and protector mindset), training, equipment, specialized internal job opportunities, modern facilities and scheduling options to name just a few. A prospective officer or dispatcher considers many or all of those factors when deciding on which agency in which to serve.

The hiring and training processes for most departments is approximately 18 months. Basic recruit training in Ohio is seven months long followed by an additional four months of post-academy training in the Division's Police Training Officer (PTO) program. Currently, five officers are undergoing basic recruit training - four in the Columbus Police Training Academy and one at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. All five officers are expected to complete their academy training and graduate as certified Ohio peace officers in July 2022. These officers will not be fully realized in a solo officer role until November, 2022. The lengthy training process is one more challenge impacting law enforcement agency staffing.

Despite these challenges, the Gahanna Division of Police is one of the best law enforcement agencies in the region for a rewarding career. I ask members of this great community to encourage family and friends seeking a career to consider the law enforcement profession and our agency to serve as a sworn officer or a 9-1-1 dispatcher. There is no better way to have a voice in the manner in which you receive policing services, than to help fill our ranks.

Jeff Spence
Chief of Police

Sign up for news alerts at Gahanna.gov

GOVDELIVERY 

Summary of Division Activity for January



Support Services – Communications Center:

Dispatchers handled 959 calls to 9-1-1 throughout the month. 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center were answered in an average of four seconds. No text-to-911 messages were received.

71% of all 9-1-1 calls received by the Communications Center originated from cellular phones. 11.3% were received from VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone lines/systems.

An additional 1,948 calls were received through the Division's non-emergency lines in January.

3,242 calls for service were dispatched during the month.

In 2021, Dispatchers answered 10,191 calls to 9-1-1, 27,829 calls from the non-emergency lines and handled 14 text-to-911 messages

Summary of Division Activity for January

959

2022 Year-to-Date
Total 9-1-1 Calls

710

2021 Year-to-Date
Total 9-1-1 Calls

35.07%

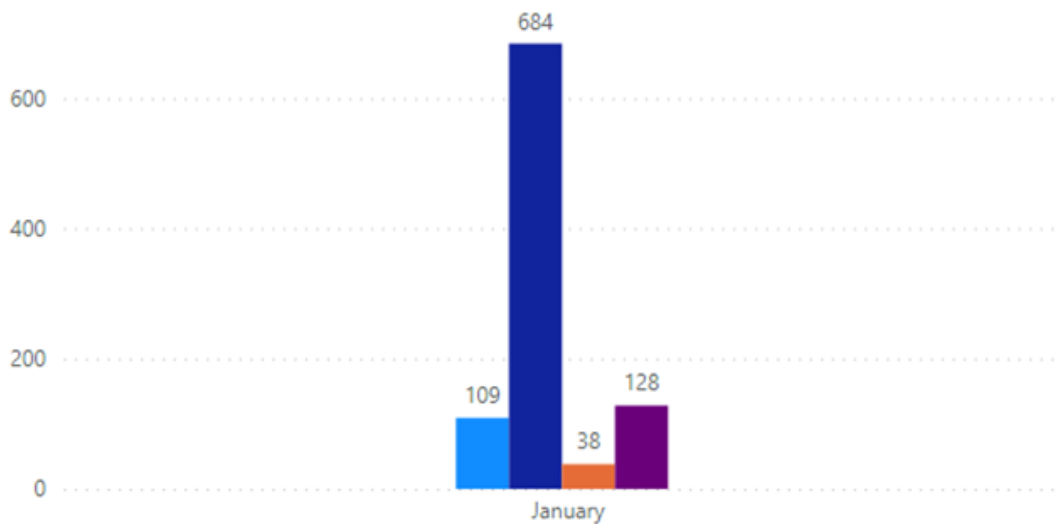
% Change
Year-to-Date Total
9-1-1 Calls

Gahanna 9-1-1 System Data

Month	9-1-1 Total	9-1-1 Wireless	9-1-1 Wireline	9-1-1 VoIP	No ANI/ALI	Average Answer Delay (Seconds)	Abandoned Calls	Rollover Calls	Non- Emergency Lines	Text to 9-1-1
January	959	684	38	109	128	4.00	28	0	1948	0
Total	959	684	38	109	128	4.00	28	0	1948	0

Total 9-1-1 Calls by Month & Type

● 9-1-1 VoIP ● 9-1-1 Wireless ● 9-1-1 Wireline ● No ANI/ALI



Sign up for news alerts at Gahanna.gov **GOVDELIVERY** 

Field Services: January 2022

- 362 offense and arrest reports were generated, including:
 - No robberies occurred; an arrest warrant was issued in one 2021 robbery case.
 - 22 thefts from vehicles were reported in January. One arrest was made in a string of incidents. Nearly all the thefts occurred from unlocked vehicles.
 - 18 incidents of criminal damaging were reported. One arrest was made in a domestic-related case.
 - Three burglaries were reported.
 - Six Breaking & Entering offenses were reported during the month. The incidents involved construction sites, detached garages and storage units.
 - Four vehicles were reported stolen.
 - Incidents of assaults (no domestic nexus) are as follows:
 - One aggravated assault; one arrest.
 - Three simple assaults.
 - Domestic-related responses include:
 - 17 documented disputes that did not involve a criminal offense.
 - Five arrests for Domestic Violence.
 - Two offense reports were forwarded for investigation or further prosecutorial review.
 - Drug offenses for the month include:
 - Drug/Narcotics violations – one offense report; five arrests.
 - Drug equipment violations – two arrests.
 - No overdose responses occurred during the month.
 - 16 arrest warrant entries were made during the month.
 - Officers conducted 526 self-initiated traffic stops with 213 traffic violators issued citations; 21 arrests were made from the stops.

(Continued ...)

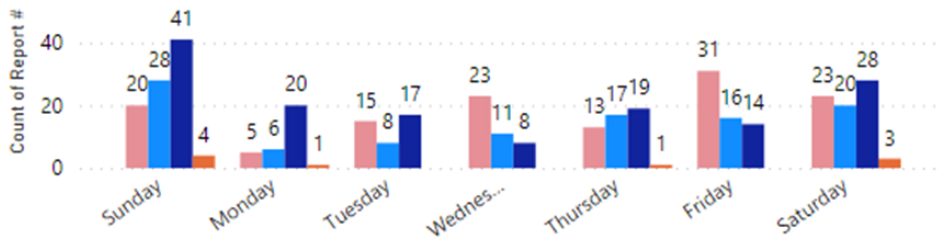
Field Services: January 2022 (page 2)

- The Division responded to 56 motor vehicle crashes:
 - No traffic fatalities occurred during the month.
 - No crashes were classified as serious injury suspected.
 - Three crashes were classified as minor injury suspected – 5.3% of crash responses.
 - Three were classified as injury possible – 5.3% of responses.
 - The remaining 50 crashes were classified as Property Damage Only (PDO) – 89.2% of responses.
 - 20 crashes occurred on IR-270 – 35.7% of all crash responses in Gahanna.
 - No incidents involved alcohol and/or drug impairment.
 - No commercial vehicles were involved in crashes during the month.
 - Distractions were reported in 10 of the 56 crashes.
- Patrol officers made nine arrests for impaired driving (OVI).
 - Four arrestees refused to submit to chemical testing.
 - The average blood alcohol content for the remaining arrestees that submitted to testing was .18 or over two times the legal limit of intoxication in Ohio.
 - Saturday evening into Sunday morning resulted in the highest number of arrests.

Summary of Division Activity for January 2022

Arrests by Day of Week

Year ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022

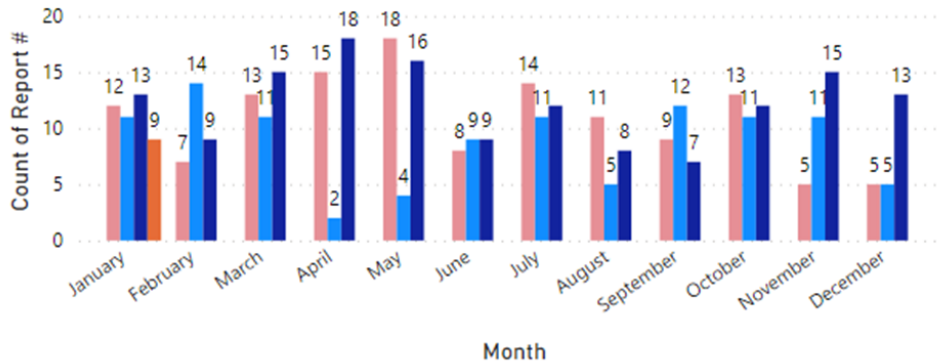


Average BAC



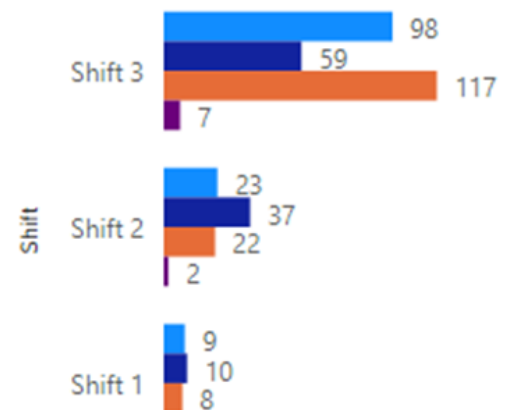
Arrests by Month

Year ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022

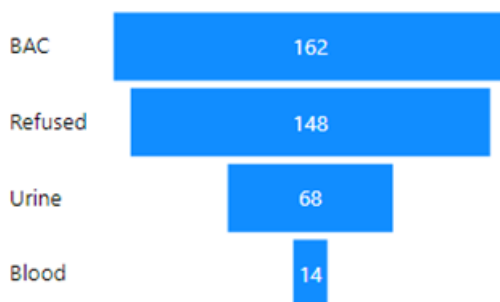


OVI by Year and Shift

Year ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022



Testing Type Total



Count of Report #

Field Services (Continued)



Investigative Services

- The Division's detectives were assigned 111 offense and arrest reports requiring investigative follow-up or other administrative action.
- Detectives obtained 29 investigative subpoenas and executed four search warrants during the month.
- In 2021, the Division's investigators were assigned 1,215 cases. Throughout the year, detectives obtained 195 subpoenas and executed 124 search warrants.

Sign up for news alerts at Gahanna.gov

GOVDELIVERY 

Region Experiences an Increase in Catalytic Converter Thefts



Communities throughout Central Ohio have experienced a significant rise in the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles. All vehicles are equipped with a catalytic converter, which is designed to aid in the scrubbing of pollution from a vehicle's exhaust. These devices contain several precious metals such as platinum, rhodium and palladium. The value of a catalytic converter sold to a scrap metal dealer can range from \$250 to over \$1,000. A skilled thief can remove a catalytic converter in a matter of seconds, often undetected. Vehicles that sit higher off the ground such as trucks and SUV's are popular targets, as are hybrid vehicles, such as the Toyota Prius. Converters in hybrid vehicles can be less worn than vehicles with gasoline-only engines. In Gahanna, most of the thefts have occurred overnight, and have involved commercial vehicles in the Industrial Park as well as residential areas.

Residents are reminded to park their vehicles in well-lit areas and report suspicious activity (thieves will often carry tools such as a Sawzall or similar device to quickly remove a catalytic converter) to the Division's Communications Center at 614-342-4240, or in an emergency, 9-1-1.

Catalytic Converter Thefts (continued)

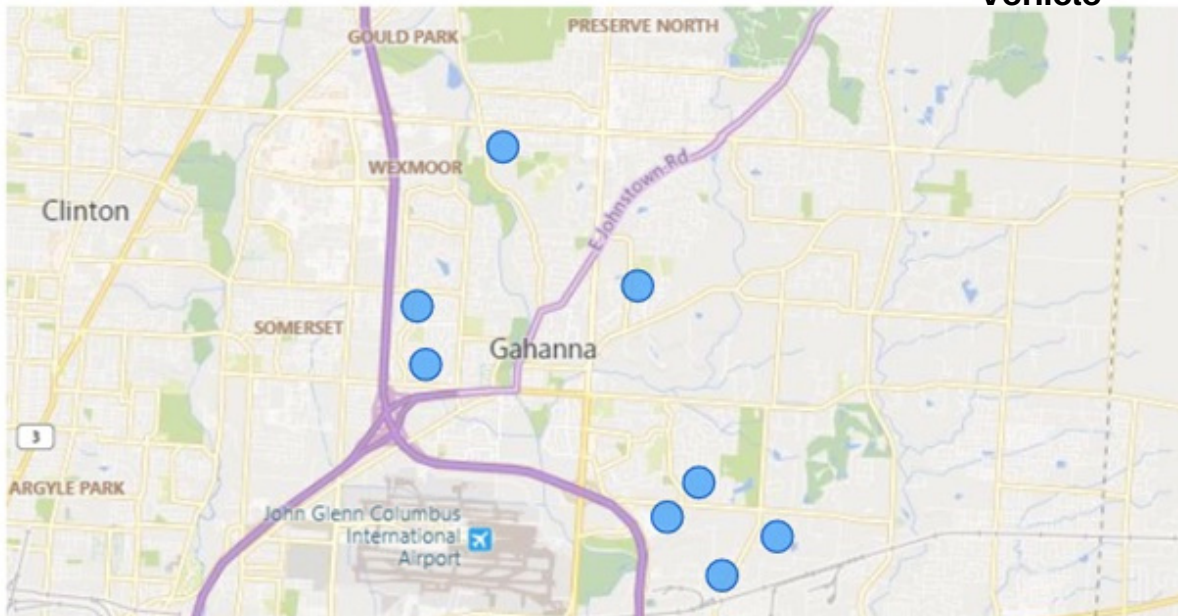
In Gahanna, most of the thefts have occurred overnight, and have involved commercial vehicles in the Industrial Park as well as residential areas.

“



Location of Thefts

Month Name ● February



Industrial Park Suspect Vehicle

“Shortchange Artist” Scams Giant Eagle Employee

The suspect in the photo below is a “shortchange artist” who was able to scam an employee at a local gas station for approximately \$500. A shortchange con artist is someone who buys something small with a large denomination bill then confuses the cashier by requesting a series of quick money exchanges (asking for change). By the end of the transaction, the con artist has the cashier so confused they can walk away with a large amount of money.



In-store surveillance image

Help Needed to Identify Crime Suspects

The suspects in the photos below stole a wallet from a customer at a local store. The suspects then used the stolen credit cards to purchase cigarettes at a nearby gas station. The suspects were observed driving the vehicle pictured in the photo below.



In-store surveillance image



Speedway gas station surveillance image



On Friday, January 14, the male suspect in the photo below stole \$404.79 worth of groceries from a local store. The suspect was observed driving away from the store in a small gray SUV.



In-store surveillance image

Should you recognize the suspects or have any information regarding these incidents, please contact the Division's detectives at 614-342-4240. Callers may remain anonymous.

COP-liment of the Month



Thank you for the follow-up Chief Spence. We were able to view the officers [Officer Carl Schmueckle and others] checking around our house while we were away with our outside security cameras. We also appreciate seeing your patrol cars go by every day.

Please pass along that as a resident of Gahanna we are very proud and supportive of your department. When a cruiser goes by our house at dusk they will always see our blue lights out front at night.

Again Thanks,

-Don L. & Wei S. - Harrison Pond

Shred & E-Recycle Event



Free drive-through event. Gahanna residents only.
(See reverse for a list of acceptable items.)

GRIN will collect canned goods, non-perishable food, toiletries and monetary donations.
GRIN cannot accept expired items.

Shred & E-Recycle Event



Items acceptable for Paper Shredding:

- Family or household documents
- Paper with staples, paper clips and/or rubber bands
- Manila folders

Items NOT acceptable for Paper Shredding:

- Business records (including home businesses)
- Binders
- Notebooks
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Books
- Plastic bags

Resale Technologies List of Acceptable Items/ Consumer Electronics:

- Mobile Phones
- Desktop Computers & Laptops
- LCD/LED Monitors (Non-Cracked Screens)
- Gaming Systems
- Tablets
- Wearables (Watches, Headphones, Heart Rate Monitors, etc.)
- Printers (Please remove paper prior to dropping off)
- Software (CD, DVD, Floppy Disk)
- Barcode Scanners
- Mobile Terminals
- Vehicle Mount Computers
- RFID Scanners
- Printers (Mobile, Thermal, RFID)
- Consumables (Labels, Tags, Ribbons)
- Routers, Switches, Bridges, and Hubs
- Servers (Rack Mount, Stand Alone)
- Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS)
- Storage Equipment (Disk Arrays, HDDs, Data Backup Systems)
- Cabling (CAT5, Coaxial, Fiber)
- Point-of-Sale Terminals
- Receipt Printers
- Cash Drawers
- Credit Card Readers
- Payment Terminals
- Scales

PLEASE NOTE: Not accepting CRT Monitors, TVs, Copiers, household appliances or light bulbs.

Sign up for news alerts at Gahanna.gov

GOVDELIVERY 



Thank you!

GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE
"To Serve and Protect"



"The Mission of the Gahanna Division of Police is to serve and protect our diverse community by building partnerships in order to provide professional law enforcement services that safeguard the lives, rights, and property of all."

Sign up for news alerts at Gahanna.gov

govDELIVERY 